



OSWEGOLAND PARK DISTRICT

093 807 000 3 - trend
 Oswego / Saw-wee-kee
 COMP

Prairie Point Center
 Plainfield & Grove Roads

313 E. Washington St.
 Oswego, IL 60543

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5 708) 554-1010



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March 9, 1992

Mr. Robert Williams, Assistant Attorney General
 Environmental Division - 12th Floor
 Office of the Honorable Roland Burris, Attorney General
 100 West Randolph Street
 Chicago, IL 60601

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ILL. EPA - D.L.P.C.

Dear Mr. Williams:

On Friday, March 6, 1992, Frank Vaughan, toxicologist from the Illinois Department of Public Health, visited Saw Wee Kee Park on a neighbor's complaint of "a strong petroleum smell in the area". Frank went with the neighbors to the site from which the dried paint and drums were removed last month. This site does not now have a "petroleum smell", nor did it have a petroleum odor the day you inspected the area, and no petroleum odor has ever been noted by IEPA investigators during their visits to the site.

Using shovels provided by the neighbors, IDPH staff and the neighbors dug a reported six holes in the clay "cap" (put in place by Heritage Remediation as the final step in the clean-up plan). In a location that neighbor, Neil Hambly, told him to dig, (Frank told me he isn't sure if Neil told him to dig there, or if Neil actually started digging the hole there himself before Frank took over.) Frank unearthed approximately 10-12 pieces of dried paint. The size of the paint chunks ranged, comparatively, from tangerine to grapefruit.

Based on the condition of the chunks of paint, (details which I will be happy to document if you wish), and the fact that they were found only in the location designated by Mr. Hambly, we believe that they were planted at the site to try to keep the "environmental issues" at the park alive. Our conclusions are also based on the fact that the clean-up was supervised and video taped by our staff. The tape clearly shows, and our site supervisors will confirm, that no paint chunks of this size were left on the site by Heritage. I personally witnessed a Heritage employee walking the site with a 5-gallon bucket picking up paint chips the size of a match book that the machinery had missed. Roll-off dumpsters filled with the paint chunks sat on site for two nights during the clean-up. Anyone who wished to set up a charade like this had ready access to as much paint as he/she wanted to take.

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Robert Williams, Asst. Atty. General
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You have been aware for some time that the neighbors's not-so-hidden agenda has been to stop development of Saw Wee Kee Park and impede the public's use of its facilities. The activity just described fits right into the same pattern of behavior we have witnessed before.

For a reason I cannot fathom, Frank Vaughan does not see or understand that he is being used by the neighbors. When I talked with him on Monday, he told me he had taken some samples, and that he would be writing a report about his "findings". I expect that you will get a copy of that report.

Immediately following the IDPH visit, staff members from the Oswegoland Park District went back to the site and picked up the paint chunks that had been unearthed and left on the ground. Those paint pieces remain in our possession. At my instruction the crew also re-excavated the hole where the paint had been "found" to look for more paint. They also dug another test hole for comparison in a random location a few feet away. No paint was found. This entire process was also documented on videotape.

Please call if you would like any further clarification or detail on the activity described above. I will also be happy to come into Chicago to show you the video tape of the clean-up.

Sincerely,



Robert K. "Bert" Gray
Executive Director

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